

RGV Chapter Texas Master Naturalist  
2024 November 5, 2024 Board Meeting

**Attendance:**

**Officers**

Robin Gelston - President

Betsy Hosick - Treasurer

**Directors and Committees**

Joni Gillis - Membership

Teresa Du Bois - AT

David Batot - Volunteer Service Projects

Mara Lee Moats - Communication

Marilyn Lorenz - Outreach

Amy Daley – New Class Director

Barb Peterson – New Class Director

**At large**

Joyce Baer Halpern - Winter Texan

**Advisor**

Javier de Leon – TOWD

**Agenda**

1. Call to order –The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Robin Gelston
2. Approval of Prior Board Meetings Minutes – No quorum was present, but since October minutes were sent via email for comment/approval and no comments were received, Robin indicated that she would publish the minutes to the website as approved. Later when a quorum was present Betsy moved to approve the October minutes and David seconded. The motion was passed.

**3. Reports**

**Treasurer** – Betsy noted balance at end of October was \$12,505.11 and savings was \$23,902.96. Budget for 2025 has been prepared. She has updated it with all the information that was provided, and it looks like there will still be income of approximately \$4,000 so the chapter looks in good shape. As there was now a quorum, David moved to accept the budget, and Teresa seconded it. Motion passed. Betsy announced that Jody Nelson is working her way through QuickBooks, and she is almost finished with July, and Betsy expects August, September and October to be ready by the next meeting. You cannot put the budget on the online version, so will be done by hand quarterly.

**Membership** – Joni was present (via online from New Zealand) but had provided status via email: 150 active members, 10 in training, and 5 advisor/associate members. Milestones will not be presented in November. The only award being presented at the November meeting will be an award for Volker for Texas Water specialist.

**Communication** – Website still under construction; lots of work to be done in the background. The payment screen for the classes is now on the website. You cannot donate and can't find out much about us other than our mission. The calendar shows the meeting dates/times, but Robin

will make sure she puts a contact list online so anyone can reach out to her. Mara Lee noted that she did not think we had a Facebook editor last year, nor any Instagram presence, and she indicated her willingness to take those tasks on in the coming year.

**Outreach** – Marilyn reported that we had an information table at the Hallo-Wings festival at the SPI birding center with over 100 people stopping at our table. At STEC we participated in a Halloween festival on Halloween night. Over 199 people stopped at our table that night. Many people expressed a lot of interest. In December there will be the Christmas bird count where volunteers will be needed. Betsy requested an opportunity to discuss the Annual meeting with the membership, as it is a great opportunity, and she would like to expand our presence. Robin offered to let Betsy present to the regular meeting. Robin presented the new Rack cards and encouraged everyone to take some to distribute. They were not expensive (1000 for \$184). Robin is working on the window decals for the Partners and Supporters. She provided three examples, the original done in 2019 with a red border and one with a green and one with a blue border. Each said Proud Partner/Supporter. Board Members recommended having two; one for Partners and one for Supporters. The cost Robin said was \$814 for 250. Robin was trying only to get 100 as we have approximately 70 partners.

**New Class Training** – Barb reported a difficult roll out, but noted there are already 23 people registered in the VMS system, although no one has paid as the payment option only appeared today. This week they will send out speaker invites and was hoping they can create a schedule and agenda for board approval at next meeting. Teresa da Salvo has stepped up to be in charge of the mentoring program. Barb says it should be pretty dynamic based on discussions with Teresa. First meeting is Jan 15 at STEC. Barb would like mentors and board members to be there. Amy expressed thanks to all the members who had provided support in getting this off the ground, and Barb noted that they are still looking for Tech support if anyone is available.

**Advance Training** – Teresa Du Bois

**Volunteer Service Project** – The bat monitoring program got a national award. When Joni returns David and Joni will get together and review the chapter's monitoring data.

**Old/Pending Business** -Robin asked whether the Trifold should still be updated. The board liked the idea, so Robin will continue to work on it. The QR code was tested, and it worked, taking you directly to our website. She also got the speaker gift cards from the state parks and has given some out.

**New Business** - Robin has sent out the nominations for 2025, and she went over the names. She asked for a motion and second to take the slate to the membership. Teresa motioned and David seconded the motion, and the slate will go out either by the meeting next week or it will be done via email. Betsy noted that Robert Gaitan was still a very valuable resource for the chapter.

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Alpert